

## TRANSPORTING DOGS IN OPEN BED VEHICLES

*Dogs which are transported on or in the back of trucks or other open-bed vehicles must either be cross-tethered or confined in a suitable cage made of wood, wire or plastic to prevent them from departing the vehicle while it is in motion. The cage must be anchored or tethered to prevent movement while in motion.*

## PENALTIES AND FINES

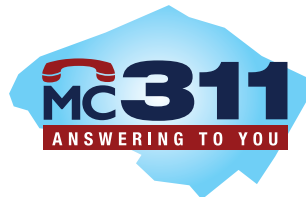
*If you do not comply with the regulations regarding tethering your dog, the following fines will apply:  
Violation of Tethering Regulations..... \$500*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

*For more information about tethering regulations, call:  
240-773-5925, Option 7*



Montgomery County, Maryland  
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
Animal Services Division  
14645 Rothgeb Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
240-773-5960  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov)



[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311)  
For calls made outside of Montgomery County: 240-777-0311  
240-773-3556 TTY



Montgomery County, Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
Animal Services Division

# Tethering Your Dog

## Regulations and Procedures



*Tethering means attaching a dog to a stationary object or pulley run by means of a chain, rope, tether, cable, or similar restraint. Tether does not include the use of a leash to walk a dog.*

# TETHERING REGULATIONS

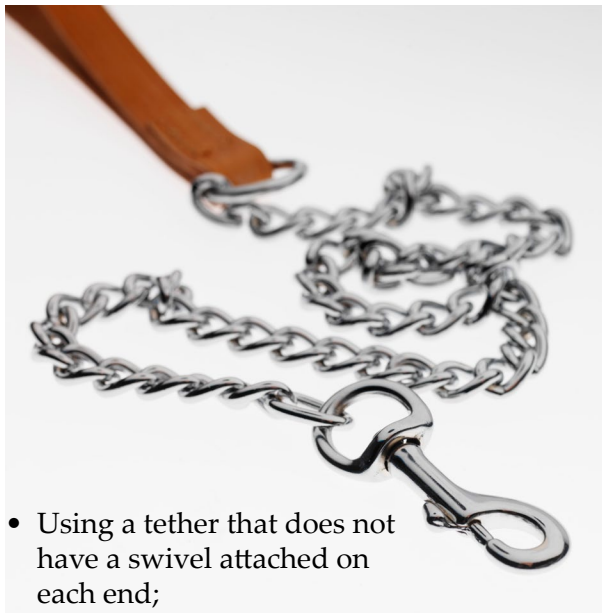
The Animal Services Division of the Montgomery County Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of laws and regulations related to pets. If you have questions about tethering your pet:

**CALL 240-773-5925**

## PROHIBITED CONDUCT

*A person must not tether a dog under circumstances that endanger its health, safety, or well being including:*

- Tethering a dog longer than two hours cumulatively during any twenty-four hour period;
- Tethering a dog by any means other than a harness;
- Tethering a dog between the hours of eight p.m. and eight a.m. unless the Director grants a waiver based on extraordinary circumstances determining that the proposed tethering will be safe and humane;
- Unattended tethering of a dog during a weather emergency, or a dog-control emergency declared by the Executive, the Director, or the County Health Officer;
- Using a tether that weighs more than 1/8 of the dog's body weight;



- Using a tether that does not have a swivel attached on each end;
- Using a tether that is less than five times the length of the dog, as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail;
- Tethering that unreasonable limits a dog's movement;
- Tethering under conditions where the dog or tether can become entangled on the tether or some other object;
- Tethering that restricts a dog's access to suitable and sufficient food, clean water, and appropriate shelter;
- Tethering in unsafe or unsanitary conditions;
- Tethering that does not allow a dog to defecate or urinate in an area separate from the area where it must eat, drink, or lie down; or
- Tethering that causes injury, stress or demonstrable socialization problems.

*It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, chain, fasten, tie, or otherwise restrain a cat to a house, tree, fence or other stationary or immobile object.*

*Failure to provide relief to a dog in distress when exposed to any of the conditions listed is proof that the dog was improperly, i.e., cruelly tethered.*

*Exception. Nothing in this regulation prohibits:*

- A regimen of restraint that the Director has approved for a particular training or working dog purpose; or
- The temporary tethering of a dog incidental to its veterinary care and/or grooming, in accordance with professionally accepted standards.

*This regulation establishes requirements for tethering a dog humanely. Notwithstanding any other provision of this regulation, the particular circumstances or conditions of a dog otherwise tethered according to the requirements of this regulation are sufficient evidence of cruelty to constitute a violation of State or County law.*

## REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR ENCLOSURES/PENS:

*Any dog confined within an outdoor enclosure/pen must have adequate space for exercise. A minimum of one hundred square feet is required. Dogs over eight (80) pounds must have an additional fifty (50) square feet. Fifty (50) square feet is required for each additional dog kept within the same enclosed area. The area must be maintained in a sanitary condition and be free from debris or stored material.*